

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Rehabilitation of Technical Infrastructure in Support of Minority Return to the Local Community of Podzeplje (Han Pijesak Municipality, Eastern Republika Srpska).

Contract Number: 168-G-00-01-00102-00
Name of Organisation: World Vision Inc.
Person Responsible: Barbara Rambousek, Project Manager

Reporting Period: January 26, 2001 - December 31, 2001

I. PROJECT PURPOSE

To facilitate and make sustainable Bosniak spontaneous breakthrough return to Podzeplje, Han Pijesak Municipality, through the reconstruction of the local school/community building. This project complemented World Vision's now-completed Integrated Return Project to this location, funded by BPRM.

II. SPECIFIC OUTPUTS

- Output 1:** Rehabilitation of the local school building in the village of Podzeplje (Han Pijesak Municipality).
- Output 2:** Rehabilitation of one housing unit including water and electrical connections for the use of the teacher of the school in Podzeplje village.
- Output 3:** The community is equipped with an appropriate space for holding community meetings/activities and for the provision of specific community based social services.

On 9 November 2001, USAID approved an amendment request submitted by World Vision to include the following additional project output:

- Output 4:** 7 additional housing units in Podzeplje (reconstructed under the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project to Han Pijesak Municipality) are connected to the local electricity network.

III. PROGRESS AGAINST OUTPUTS

- Output 1: Rehabilitation of the local school building in the village of Podzeplje (Han Pijesak Municipality).**

- Pre-qualification Process completed

World Vision Engineers undertook a Pre-qualification procedure following World Vision's Standard Operating Procedures (as attached to the project proposal). Invitations to Pre-

qualification were published in three local newspapers on March 15, 16 and 26, 2001 giving interested companies a deadline until April 5 for submission of the full pre-qualification documentation to the World Vision BiH office in Sarajevo.

Out of 47 companies that took the pre-qualification questionnaire, 31 returned completed copies that were evaluated by the Pre-Qualification Committee consisting of the World Vision Engineers and the Project Manager. 23 companies were disqualified owing to incomplete documentation or insufficient scores. A total of 8 companies successfully passed the pre-qualification procedure. These results were made public on May 21, 2001 and the 8 successful companies invited to tender.

The Scope of Works submitted by the World Vision Engineering team were approved by Mr Tufo Munib, USAID Engineer in Sarajevo on May 24, 2001 and additional works were included (cleaning of existing septic tanks, toilet for disabled persons) or excluded (provision of school furniture, except blackboards) as per his recommendation.

- Tendering and Award of Contract

The deadline for receiving bids was June 5, 2001, at 11.00 am. The public opening of the bids took place in the World Vision office in Sarajevo on the same day at 11.15 am. The opening was supervised by the three-member World Vision Committee consisting of the Project Manager, the Reconstruction Manager and the Technical Engineer. Representatives of 7 companies were present who all submitted bids that were read out aloud and recorded.

Following the opening, World Vision undertook a detailed evaluation of the bids in private. Bids were first checked for completeness and formal compliance and were then evaluated in relation to the technical criteria. Only those bids which passed these two stages were evaluated in terms of price. A detailed analysis of prices was carried out by recalculating all given prices, sub-totals and totals. In addition, the bids were compared with the World Vision Engineer's pretender estimate to determine their validity in relation to the overall project budget.

The lowest bid was submitted by the company ITT Ingrap Tesanj. The next lowest bid by the company Vranica Pale was also found to be complete, realistic and correct, however, it was considerably higher than the lowest bid. Therefore, the World Vision Committee signed the contract with ITT Ingrap Tesanj on June 15, 2001 for a period of 65 days (completion date: August 20, 2001) and a total amount of 94,521.10 USD.

- Reconstruction Works

Throughout the reconstruction phase of the project, World Vision Engineers continuously monitored the progress and quality of works on site. In the course of the initial stages of the works, it was found that the original pre-war roof construction of the school building did not meet minimum structural standards and could not be reconstructed without major safety risks. Therefore, World Vision Engineers in cooperation with Mr Tufo Munib, USAID, designed an alternative roof construction fulfilling all safety standards and requiring only minimal structural and budgetary changes. All additional costs (23,000 USD) and scope of works were approved by USAID.

Owing to the favourable tender results World Vision was able to make additional savings (42,000 USD) in the school reconstruction line item, that were used for the following complementary works, as approved by USAID in Sarajevo in August 2001:

Water supplement and sewerage system: The damages to the water supplement and sewerage system of the school in Podzeplje were more severe than originally anticipated. The heavy rainfalls earlier that year had destroyed parts of the pipe systems leading to the school, especially

the sections under the main road through the village. Their repair was critical for the adequate water supply and sanitary conditions in the school.

School sports and playground: The sports and playground located next to the school building was totally destroyed during the war, leaving the returnee children without adequate conditions for physical education classes. World Vision repaired the basic structures of the sports ground (no sports equipment was provided).

School fence: World Vision reconstructed the wooden fence around the school premises.

All works were completed on time without incurring additional costs.

Output 2: Rehabilitation of one housing unit including water and electrical connections for the use of the teacher of the school in Podzeplje village.

- Pre-qualification and Scope of Works

The Pre-qualification process for the reconstruction of the housing unit for the teacher in Podzeplje village was part of the Pre-qualification process described under Objective 1.

- Tendering and Award of Contract

The tender procedure was performed as part of the overall tender procedure for all reconstruction components of this project, following World Vision Standard Operating Procedures (attached to the original proposal). The contract was awarded to ITT Ingrap Tesanj on August 17, 2001 for a total amount of 11,070.30 USD.

- Reconstruction Works

World Vision Engineers closely monitored the progress and quality of works on site and performed the final technical hand-over. The house design had been approved by the Municipality of Han Pijesak prior to the start of the works. All works were completed in August 2001.

- Applications for Teacher Position

World Vision has repeatedly met with one applicant for the teacher position in Podzeplje school. The applicant had been working in the school as a teacher in the early 1980s and would be willing to go back to Podzeplje as soon as the school is re-opened. To address some of her questions with regards to the curriculum and her employment status, World Vision has facilitated a meeting with Julie Browning, OHR/Human Rights, who strongly supports her re-employment in Podzeplje. In addition, OHR has met with the headmaster of the school in Han Pijesak, who is responsible for the management and staffing of the reconstructed school in Podzeplje. The headmaster is currently in direct contact with the returnees (facilitated through a follow-on World Vision economic development project workshop in the village, funded by the Swedish Development Agency SIDA) to plan the re-opening of the school. World Vision will continue to follow-up with the management of the school as well as with OHR in this regard beyond the implementation time of this project.

Output 3: The community is equipped with an appropriate space for holding community meetings/activities and for the provision of specific community based social services.

- Regular medical care provided by local Health Centre (Dom Zdravlja)

As part of the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project to Han Pijesak (the Local Community of Podzeplje), World Vision has facilitated an agreement between the returning community and the local Health Centre (Dom Zdravlja) in Han Pijesak with regards to the provision of regular medical care facilities and services for seven villages in the area. Since March 2001, a doctor from the Health Centre visits the village on a weekly basis. In addition, 5 Bosniak returnees and 2 Serb resident neighbours have attended and successfully completed a first aid training course (and follow-up course) that allows them to react immediately in the case of an accident or other emergency.

In addition, World Vision (through BPRM funding) provided basic equipment for a local health post in one room of the building. Since September 2001, the returnee and neighbouring Serb communities are receiving regular (weekly) medical care provided by medical staff from the Health Centre in Han Pijesak in the health-post room in the school building.

- Handicraft workshop for returnee women

As part of the income generation component of the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project, 10 returnee women have completed a 10-week training programme for the production of quality Bosnian handicrafts. Through the local company 'Bosnian Handicrafts', that exports products to different countries in the European Union, these women are provided with a stable market link and hence, a stable income upon the completion of the training. Owing to the success of this programme, the number of women who enrolled in the training course has been growing steadily (from 10 to 25 to date). This also includes Serb women from neighbouring villages.

World Vision has provided these women with the necessary equipment for production (through BPRM funding) and, whenever needed, one of the rooms in the school/community building is now used as a workshop.

- Meeting space for local 'Residents Association Podzeplje', the local Farmer's Association and for other Communal Purposes

Through the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project to Han Pijesak, World Vision has equipped one of the rooms with chairs and tables for community meetings. These facilities are now used by:

Residents Association Podzeplje: In March 2001, the majority of the returnees have formed a 'Residents Association' to co-operate with regards to economic and social aspects of their return to Podzeplje. The Association is meeting on a regular basis, discussing priority community issues and developing joint strategies of how to address them.

Farmer's Association Podzeplje: In addition, the local farmers in Podzeplje and surrounding villages have formed a Farmer's Association that uses one of the rooms in the school buildings as their official meeting and office space. Through its ongoing projects in Han Pijesak Municipality, World Vision will continue working with this Farmer's Association after the end of this project. It is envisaged that Serb farmers from the surrounding villages will be included into the Association before the end of the year.

Output 4: 7 additional housing units in Podzeplje (reconstructed under the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project to Han Pijesak Municipality) are connected to the local electricity network.

Under the BPRM funded Integrated Return Project to Han Pijesak, World Vision reconstructed 7 additional housing units in the target location. However, under the same project, no funds were allocated to provide the returnees with electrical connections to their houses. Therefore, World Vision has submitted a request for a no-cost time extension for this USAID funded project until December 31, 2001 in order to use under-spent funding remaining after the completion of outputs 1-3 for the connection of these additional units to the electrical network. The request was approved by USAID on 9 November 2001.

- Tendering

Upon approval of the no-cost time extension request by USAID, World Vision Engineers finalised the technical assessment of the works. The Invitation to Tender was sent out on 19 November 2001 and the deadline for receiving bids was 21 November 2001, at 11.00 am. The public opening of the bids took place in the World Vision office in Sarajevo on the same day at 11.15 am and was supervised by the three-member World Vision Committee. Representatives of 3 companies were present whose bids that were read out aloud and recorded.

Following the opening, World Vision undertook a detailed evaluation of the bids in private. Bids were first checked for completeness and formal compliance and were then evaluated in relation to the technical criteria. Only those bids which passed these two stages were then evaluated in terms of price. A detailed analysis of prices was carried out by recalculating all given prices, sub-totals and totals. In addition, the bids were compared with the World Vision Engineer's pre-tender estimate to determine their validity in relation to the overall project budget.

The lowest bid was submitted by the company Montaza, (\$9,992.50). The next lowest bid by the company K-Inel was also found to be complete, realistic and correct, however, it was considerably higher than the lowest bid. Therefore, the World Vision Committee decided to award the contract to Montaza.

- Reconstruction Works

Reconstruction works have commenced upon award of the contract and were completed on December 14, 2001. World Vision Engineers supervised and monitored the progress and quality of the works on site and performed the technical hand-over in co-operation with Elektro distribucija on December 16, 2001.

V. PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED / SOLUTIONS FOUND

Problem: Since the management of the main school in Han Pijesak has not yet officially applied for the re-opening of the school in Podzeplje to the RS Ministry of Education in Banja Luka, the school in Podzeplje is not yet functional. Therefore, at present some returnee parents have enrolled their children in other schools (mostly in the Federation).

Solution: World Vision, in co-operation with OHR, has met with the headmaster of the school in Han Pijesak and strongly encouraged him to submit the official application to the RS Ministry of Education. In addition, World Vision has established initial contacts between the returnee community and the headmaster of the school in Han Pijesak in order to facilitate the fast collection of relevant data for the application documents (number of children who would be interested in attending the school, best possible re-opening date, hiring of teacher, etc). This process is also strongly supported by OHR/Human Rights. It is anticipated that the school will

restart its operations at the beginning of the next school year in September 2002. World Vision will continue the regular contact with the returnees (also after the official end of the project) to inform them about new developments and the opening of the school.